

Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

- 1 1 (Currently Amended). A method for the formation of dynamic alliances between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific market opportunities comprising the steps of:
 - 4 receiving ~~a~~ an initial request for proposal from a customer;
 - 5 translating the request for proposal into demanded capabilities;
 - 6 matching demanded capabilities with registered vendor capabilities;
 - 7 ~~to generate~~ generating a plurality of sets of vendors which meet the demanded capabilities;
 - 9 allowing a vendor to form a coalition by dividing a received initial request for proposal into a plurality of sub-requests to be responded to by other vendors with no restriction on a number of levels of such divisions thereby creating a request for a proposal tree;
 - 13 managing the request proposal tree by controlling access to contained information;
 - 15 selecting one or more preferred coalition from coalition alternates at each level of the request proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal from the generated plurality sets of vendors; and
 - 18 selecting a preferred coalition from the coalition alternatives aggregating coalitions at all levels in the request for proposal tree to respond to the initial request for proposal.

2 (Canceled).

- 1 3 (Withdrawn). A coalition formation process for the dynamic alliance between multiple vendors in a marketplace comprising the steps of:

3 receiving a customer request for proposal;
4 gathering requirements needed to respond to the request for proposal;
5 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required
6 to respond to the request for proposal;
7 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a
8 database;
9 generating a shortlist of potential vendors;
10 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the request for
11 proposal;
12 assessing by each invited vendor the request for proposal requirements
13 and identifying additional capabilities required;
14 decomposing by an invited vendor the request for proposal into a
15 plurality of sub-request for proposals, the invited vendor becoming a customer
16 submitting the sub-request for proposals;
17 gathering requirements needed to respond to the sub-request for
18 proposals;
19 analyzing the gathered requirements to determine capabilities required
20 to respond to the sub-request for proposals;
21 comparing required capabilities to vendor capabilities stored in a
22 database;
23 generating a shortlist of potential vendors to respond to the sub-request
24 for proposals;
25 inviting vendors on the shortlist to prepare a response to the sub-
26 request for proposals;
27 assessing by the vendor submitting the sub-request for proposals
28 received from vendors;
29 forming a coalition of vendors responding to the sub-request for
30 proposals; and
31 presenting a proposal to the customer.

1 4 (Currently Amended). A system for the formation of dynamic alliances
2 between vendors with complementary capabilities to jointly pursue specific
3 market opportunities comprising:

4 means for receiving a an initial request for proposal from a customer;

5 means for translating the request for proposal into demanded
6 capabilities;

7 a database storing registered vendor capabilities;

8 means for accessing said database and matching demanded capabilities
9 with registered vendor capabilities to generate a plurality of sets of vendors
10 which meet the demanded capabilities;

11 input means for accepting from registered vendors not having all
12 demanded capabilities a coalition of vendors which meet demanded
13 capabilities, said coalition of vendors being formed through creation of sub-
14 requests by dividing the initial request for proposal and inviting other
15 vendors to respond with no restriction on a number of levels of such
16 divisions thereby creating a request for proposal tree;

17 means for managing the request for proposal tree by controlling access
18 to contained information;

19 means for selecting one or more a preferred coalition from coalition
20 alternates from the generated plurality sets of vendors at each level of the
21 request for proposal tree to respond to the request for proposal at that level;
22 and

23 means for aggregating coalitions at all levels in the request for proposal
24 tree selecting a preferred coalition from the coalition alternatives to respond to
25 the initial request for proposal.

5 (Canceled).

1 6 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, further comprising
2 means for establishing access control privileges to coalition members of ~~the a~~
3 coalition ~~structure~~, the access control privileges applying to sharing of
4 common resources and services available to the coalition.

1 7 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, wherein the means
2 for selecting selects members from vendors in the database and from
3 coalitions formed by vendors in the database with other vendors not in the
4 database.

1 8 (Currently Amended). The system recited in claim 5 4, further comprising
2 means for providing common services to ~~coalition members of a coalition~~.

1 9 (New). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 establishing access control privileges to coalition members of a coalition, the
3 access control privileges applying to sharing of common resources and
4 services available to the coalition.

1 10 (New). The method recited in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting selects
2 members from vendors in a database and from coalitions formed by vendors in
3 the database with other vendors not in the database.

1 11 (New). The method recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 providing common services to members of a coalition.